

LIFEgroups

OPEN

Go around and let everyone answer...

Why do people tend to criticize those who are popular, successful or powerful?

DIG

Read the following passage and look for why and how listeners criticized Jesus:

Matthew 12:22-24 *"They brought him a demon-possessed man..."*

What was the accusation against Jesus?

Do you think the accusers believed Jesus had power over demons?

Why were they so critical?

Read the following passage and look for how Jesus defends himself:

Matthew 12:25-28 *"Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them..."*

If you have ever heard the expression, "A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand," tell about the context in which it was used.

This encounter reflects on the nature of *good* and *evil* in our world, then it questions whether Jesus represented *good*, or represented *evil*. Do some people today indicate that Jesus represents evil? How?

Read the following passage and look for the main point in the parable about the strong man:

Matthew 12:29 *"How can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man?"*

What is the main point of this brief parable?

Make a list of things over which you believe Jesus has power.

APPLY

What is it that convinced you personally that Jesus is the Son of God and savior of the world?

What real difference does Jesus make in your own daily struggles over evil?

gr

Leaders

Sermon Series

This discussion guide comes from the current lesson in a series from the Gospel of Matthew. This series focuses on Matthew's message of establishing that Jesus is King over all.

Big Idea

This lesson focuses on the power of God over everything, especially Satan and demons.

Group Discussion Reminder

People normally respond to groups that are fun. So look for ways to keep a spirit of joy and fun in your group meetings. Encourage people to share good experiences or things for which they are thankful. Then plan ways to celebrate something together, such as birthdays, anniversaries, spiritual milestones, or holidays.